

Message Text

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11
ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7318
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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, CI,
SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF LABOR ANNOUNCES WAGE-STRIKE THREAT

REF: MEXICO 11474

1. SEPT 10 MORNING PRESS REPORTS ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARMANDO VICTORIA GALVAN, PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESO DEL TRABAJO(WHICH ENCOMPASSES 32 MAJOR NATIONAL UNIONS INCLUDING LARGE CONFEDERACION DE TRABAJADORES DE

MEXICO--CTM) THAT AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BEGIN GENERAL STRIKE ON SEPT 28 IF EMPLOYEES DID NOT MEET THEIR DEMANDS FOR 65 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE.

2. GALVAN CLAIMED THAT CONGRESS STUDIES INDICATED PRICE INCREASES RANGING FROM 45 TO 200 PERCENT HAD OCCURRED SINCE PESO FLOAT ANNOUNCE-

MENT ON SEPT 1 AND THAT ORGANIZATIONS "4 MILLION" MEMBERS WERE EXPERIENCING LOSS OF PURCHASING POWER "EVERY HOUR".

3. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO GAUGE HOW FIRM THE CONGRESS THREAT MIGHT BE BY PAST EXPERIENCES. MEXICAN LABOR FACES A SERIOUS AND IMMEDIATE PROBLEM WITH WHICH IT HAS NOT BEEN CONFRONTED IN MANY YEARS. THERE IS UNQUESTIONABLY STRONG GRASS-ROOT MEMBERSHIP CONCERN OVER THEIR LOSS OF PURCHASING POWER SUFFERED DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT SEEN OR HEARD OF ANY PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS GENERATED BY THE PROBLEM, ORGANIZED WORKERS ARE UN-
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DOUBTEDLY VOICING THEIR CONCERN THROUGH THEIR ORGANIZATIONS.

UNLES THE GOM MOVES MORE FORCEFULLY (AND PUBLICLY) TO DEMONSTRATE
ITS INTENTION TO CONTROL PRICES, GENERAL PUBLIC CONCERN AND
SUBSEQUENT PRESSURE ON THE LABOR LEADERSHIP WILL INCREASE.
THOMPSON

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